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The effect of green tea as an adjunct to scaling and root planing in non-surgical periodontitis therapy: a systematic review

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Abstract: **OBJECTIVE** To provide a systematic overview on the efficacy of green tea catechin as an adjunct to scaling and root planing (SRP) in terms of probing pocket depth (PPD). **MATERIALS AND METHODS** A systematic literature search was performed using electronic databases in PubMed, Scopus, Medline, Cochrane, CINAHL, and Web of Science on randomized clinical trials up to January 2017. The research question was posed in accordance with PRISMA guidelines. **RESULTS** The search provided 234 studies. After analyzing the full texts, five studies were included, with four studies qualifying for meta-analysis. Mean PPD reduction was significantly higher ($\alpha = 0.05$) when green tea catechin was used as an adjunct to SRP (test group) than with SRP alone (control group). The difference in the reduction was 0.74 mm [0.35-1.13; 95% CI]. **CONCLUSION** The local application of green tea catechin as an adjunct to SRP may result in a beneficial reduction in PPD. Due to the highly heterogeneous data and some risk of bias, however, this data still needs to be interpreted with caution. **CLINICAL RELEVANCE** The finding suggests that green tea catechin may be a topical adjunct to SRP without negative side effects.

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The effect of green tea as an adjunct to scaling and root planing in non-surgical periodontitis therapy: a systematic review

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Keywords: Green tea, local application, chronic periodontitis, non-surgical periodontal therapy, local delivery device

Abstract

Objective: To provide a systematic overview on the efficacy of green tea catechin as an adjunct to scaling and root planing (SRP) in terms of probing pocket depth (PPD).

Materials and Methods: A systematic literature search was performed using electronic databases in PubMed, Scopus, Medline, Cochrane, CINAHL and Web of Science on randomized clinical trials up to January 2017. The research question was posed in accordance with PRISMA guidelines.

Results: The search provided 234 studies. After analyzing the full texts, five studies were included, with four studies qualifying for meta-analysis. Mean PPD reduction was significantly higher ($\alpha=0.05$) when green tea catechin was used as an adjunct to SRP (test group) than with SRP alone (control group). The difference in the reduction was 0.74 mm [0.35 – 1.13; 95% CI].

Conclusion: The local application of green tea catechin as an adjunct to SRP may result in a beneficial reduction in PPD. Due to the highly heterogeneous data and some risk of bias, however, this data still needs to be interpreted with caution.

Clinical Relevance: The finding suggests that green tea catechin may be a topical adjunct to SRP without negative side effects.

Background

Periodontitis is an inflammatory disease of the periodontal tissues. It is caused by bacteria as an etiologic factor and modulated by the host [1, 2]. Subgingival populations of bacteria are organized in biofilms. Therefore, the primary goal of periodontal treatment is to eliminate or reduce the pathogenic species on dental surfaces. Scaling and root planing (SRP) still represents the highest standard of care and mechanically disrupts these biofilms. Nevertheless, a complete elimination of the pathogenic biofilm is not always achieved, due in great part to issues of site accessibility [3, 4].

In order to overcome the technical problems associated with subgingival biofilm management, previous research has examined numerous local adjunctive antibiotics and antiseptic agents as well as strategies that have been proposed and investigated in order to improve non-surgical therapy. Several local anti-infective and antibiotic agents are adjunctively placed directly into the periodontal pockets and have been shown to have an impact on bacterial biofilm pathogenicity and periodontal healing [5-7]. One such chemotherapeutic agent, chlorhexidine, was integrated into a biodegradable chip and placed in the periodontal pocket [8, 9]. Nevertheless one of the view studies investigating a potential effect on periodontal pockets could not prove a benefit of chlorhexidine chips compared to systemic antibiotics [10]. Another approach in non-surgical periodontal treatment was the local application of antibiotic agents through numerous mechanisms [11]. Yet showing a statistical advantage compare to SRP alone. The use of such agents has decreased in popularity due to manufacturing issues, difficult administration techniques and financial reasons [7]. In addition, the use of locally applied antibiotics requires the use of higher concentrations (bacteriocidal vs. bacteriostatic) due to a rather fast wash-out time in the periodontal pocket. This, in turn, has given rise to growing criticism [12-14].

Hence, there has been increasing interest in natural alternatives. Green tea is one such substance and has gained attention based on promising scientific reports that show its health benefits, especially in beverages [15]. The active ingredients of green tea are polyphenols. Most of them are catechins (flavan-3-ols), which can be categorized in four main groups: Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG) being the most common type (59%), followed by epigallocatechin (EGC, 19%), epicatechin 3 gallate (ECG, 13.6%) and epicatechin (EC, 6.4%) [16]. In addition, whole green tea contains

other antioxidants in the form of vitamins, such as carotinoids (A), ascorbate (C) and tocopherols (E) [15].

Polyphenols act as antioxidants through the induction of antioxidant enzymes such as glutathione S-transferase and super oxid dismutase. Other mechanisms by which catechins have an influence on the oxidation levels are through binding to iron and copper ions, thus reducing the impact of these ions on oxidation reactions. In addition, they prevent the activation of redox-sensitive transcription factors, which are mediators of inflammatory reactions. Catechins can also suppress other oxidation substances, such as nitric oxid synthase, cyclooxygenase 2 (COX-2), lipoxygenase 2 (LOX-2) and xanthine oxidase [15, 17].

Kushiyaama and co-workers showed that green tea can have a preventive effect when taken regularly. It may even reduce the progression of an existing periodontitis [18]. Overall, green tea catechins have an anti-oxidant and anti-bacterial effect on pathogens such as *Porphyromonas gingivalis* and *Prevotella intermedia*. The mechanism of action is through the inhibiting effect of EGCG and EGC on cysteine proteases of *P. gingivalis*. [19, 20]. *In vitro* research also suggests an anti-inflammatory effect for other inflammatory processes, such as cardiovascular diseases [21].

Although multiple studies have been conducted to find evidence on the therapeutic effects and benefits of green tea, little is known about the use of this substance for periodontally diseased patients. Therefore, this systematic review was undertaken to evaluate the potentially beneficial effects of green tea extract as a topically applied adjunct to SRP during non-surgical periodontal therapy in patients with periodontal disease.

Materials and Methods

Protocol

The current systematic review was conducted in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items of Systematic Reviews (PRISMA) and Meta-analyses statement [22]. The focused question adopted the Population, Intervention, Comparison and Outcomes criteria [23].

The focused question for the present systematic review was: “What is the effect of green tea catechins as an adjunct to scaling and root planing (SRP + GT) compared to SRP and placebo on the PPD in patients with chronic periodontitis?

Literature search strategy and study selection

The following electronic search was conducted to identify research articles up to January 2017 dealing with green tea catechin as adjunct to SRP. The databases used for the search were CINAHL, Cochrane Library, MEDLINE, PubMed and Scopus. The following combinations of search terms were used: "periodontal disease" OR "loss" OR "pocket" OR "abscess" OR "abscesses" OR "periodontitis" OR "attachment AND loss" AND "camellia AND chinensis" OR "green tea" OR "epigallocatechin" OR "gallate" OR "gallic acid" (Appendix 1).

Two of the authors (Y.v.W. and S.ST.) independently screened the titles and abstracts for inclusion. The collection of search terms from the electronic database resulted in 234 titles in January 2017. A third reviewer (P.R.S.) re-examined the search. In case of disagreement, the study in doubt was also evaluated by a fourth reviewer (S.E.) and solved through discussion. Finally, eight studies were selected for full text assessment (Fig. 1).

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

The eligibility criteria for the search included original publications investigating green tea extract as an adjunct to SRP compared to SRP alone. Based on the following criteria, abstracts were included: publications in English, German or Spanish language; randomized clinical trials; extract of green tea explicitly used as an adjunct to non-surgical therapy in patients with chronic periodontitis (SRP); the extract was explicitly used as a local delivery device, either in a strip or gel.

Reasons for excluding publications were as follows: *in vitro* study, case report, the study population was treated for gingivitis, only green tea and not a green tea extract was used, or green tea was not used in a local delivery device; the study population suffered from a systemic disease (for example diabetes) (Appendix 2).

Data extraction

From each study, the following data were collected in a data extraction file: number of subjects, chemical composition of the green tea extract, chemical composition of the placebo device, study period, point in time of application of the test and control device, PPD at baseline and study end, PI at baseline and study end and GI at baseline and study end.

Data analysis and synthesis

At baseline and study end, mean and standard deviations were extracted from the studies. A major statistical challenge was the lack of reported standard deviations on the changes in parameters from baseline to endpoint. Additionally, outcomes between different treatments are correlated in a split-mouth design. Therefore, an analysis was conducted between individual values at baseline and endpoint of the two different treatments in the same individual. Probing pocket depths (PPD) were defined as the primary outcome measure, Plaque (PI) and Gingiva Index (GI) as secondary outcome measures. The open source software R with the package “metafor” was used for a random effects analysis according to the method of DerSimonian and Laird [24]. Several combinations for the correlation of the baseline and endpoint values, as well as the correlation between the two measured differences of test and control group reflecting the split-mouth design, were used. The combination with the smallest lower confidence interval found is reported in Table 5 (conservative estimate)

Report of risk of bias for individual studies

The methodological and reporting quality of the studies included was rated through a modified version of the Cochrane Collaboration’s Tool [25] (Appendix 3). The studies of interest, given their adequate reporting of items, were evaluated for quality and risk of bias.

Results

Study selection

The electronic data search initially identified 234 studies. After reviewing the titles and abstracts, 226 of these studies were excluded. After analysing the full text of eight studies, four studies had to be excluded; one due to the inclusion criteria of patients being diagnosed with diabetes [26], another due to missing information on study design and sample size [27], the third because no information on study design and sample size was presented. The fourth study got excluded due to the nature of the study with only six participants included into the study [28]. Four studies were designed in a randomized, double-blinded split-mouth model and could be included in the meta-analysis [29, 30, 31, 32]. Further, one randomized, double-blinded,

placebo controlled parallel-group study did not fit the meta-analysis requirements and will be described separately [33]. The Figure 1 demonstrates the selection process in a flow-chart.

Description of characteristics and results

The characteristics of the study are described in Table 1. Study characteristics, relevant for the specific research question are described as follows:

Population: Two studies included subjects between 30 and 55 years of age [29, 31]. Two studies included patients older than 35 years [32, 33]. One study did not provide age [30]. The ethnicity of the subjects was not disclosed. In fact, three studies were performed in India, one in Japan and one in Thailand, which suggests populations of Asian descent. Only one study from Mendoza, Argentina, evaluated a Caucasian population. All studies described chronic periodontitis and a cut-off measurement of > 5 mm PPD. In some studies, patients had to display > 5 mm PPD on at least 2 sites bilaterally in order to meet the inclusion criteria. The study conducted by Chava and co-workers included patients with 4 to 6 mm PPD on >30% of sites [31]. All split-mouth designed studies defined the allocation of the PPD measurements in the specific quadrants. The following exclusion criteria were defined by 4 studies: Periodontal treatment with and without antibiotic treatment in the past 6 months, smokers, lactating and pregnant women and systemic diseases. Another study excluded patients who had undergone topical or systemic antibiotic treatment either during the past 60 days or during the study period [30]. The studies included to the meta-analysis examined a total of 34 patients treated with catechin strips and 80 patients treated with catechin gel. However, the number of treated teeth was not declared.

Intervention/Comparison:

All included studies performed SRP and an adjunct application of either a green tea catechin strip or gel on the test sites. Funosas and co-workers performed either SRP alone or placed a placebo gel as a control. This study evaluated both control group possibilities in different quadrants [30]. Within the identified studies, three publications examined green tea gel and three studies used a hydroxypropyl cellulose strip as carrier for the green tea extract. The local delivery device (LDD)

was placed once after SRP, except in one studies. Rattanasuwan et al. repeated the application one and two weeks after SRP with no further intervention [33]. Study periods ranged from three weeks to eight months.

Outcomes:

All studies registered PPD at baseline and study end for the test and control groups. All studies observed sites with at least 5 mm PPD. In addition to PPD, GI was evaluated by Chave et al., and GI and PL in four other the studies [31].

a) Probing pocket depth (PPD)

Within the test group, PPD at baseline ranged from 4.93 to 6.43 mm and at study end from 2.87 to 5.14 mm (Table 2). Within the control group, PPD at baseline ranged from 4.77 to 5.71 mm and at study end from 2.83 to 5.14 mm. The reduction of PPD (Δ PPD) within the test group ranged from 1.28 to 2.71 mm with a mean of 1.89 mm and within the control group from 0.57 to 2.67 mm with a mean of 1.34 mm. Chava et al. reported a minor standard deviation for Δ PPD for the test and control group, 0.07 mm and 0.02 mm, respectively [31].

b) Gingival index (GI)

Table 3 displays the baseline GI for the test group, which ranged from 1.67 to 2, and at study end from 0.01 to 0.96. Equal to the test group, GI at baseline in the control group ranged from 1.67 to 2 and at study end from 0.16 to 1.1. The reduction of GI within the test group ranged from 0.71 to 1.91 with a mean reduction of 1.21 and within the control group from 0.64 to 1.97 with a mean reduction of 1.1.

c) Plaque index (PI)

Only two studies documented PI Scores, whereby Hattarki et al. provided identical data for the test and control groups [32, 29]. Mean PL reduction in the test group was 1.12 and in the control group 0.99 (Table 4).

d) Meta-analysis PPD

SRP treatment with adjunctive green tea catechin application resulted in a 0.74 mm PPD reduction [0.35, 1.13; 95 % CI] in favour of green tea compared to SRP alone (Table 5). One study presented a very small standard error [31]. To fit statistical

measurements, the study was removed and the results remained statistically significant with a 0.57 mm [0.35, 0.78; 95 % CI] PPD reduction after SRP treatment with green tea application.

e) Rattanasuwan (parallel-group study)

This study was excluded from the meta-analysis because of their parallel-group design and reported no difference between test and control group (0.04 mm in favour of SRP + GT) [33]. Nevertheless, the study observed 48 patients over a period of 6 months, where patient populations in the meta-analysis studies ranged from 14 to 50 patients [29, 30, 32].

f) Adverse Effects

Only Chava et al. provided the information that no adverse events occurred during their study. [31]. The other studies did not mention the occurrence of adverse reactions, one way or the other.

g) Bleeding on probing (BOP)

Only Rattanasuwan et al. evaluated BOP as a secondary outcome, and showed a significantly higher reduction in the test group after three months [33].

Discussion

This study evaluated the clinical efficacy of topically applied green tea catechin substances as a natural adjunct to SRP, as compared to SRP alone or using a placebo. PPD reduction was the primary outcome parameter for determining efficacy. Five randomized controlled clinical trials with a split-mouth design, and using green tea catechins as an adjunct to SRP, could be included in this systematic review. Overall, the adjunctive application of the test agent resulted in an observed weighed mean difference in PPD reduction of 0.74 mm [0.35 - 1.13; 95 % CI] favouring the test group.

Systemic antibiotics as an adjunct to SRP have shown great success in the treatment of periodontal disease, but are associated with the development of bacterial resistance and systemic adverse events [34, 35]. Therefore, the local application of natural alternative substances with a local anti-inflammatory effect, such as green tea catechin, is of great clinical interest.

The clinical benefit measured appears to be in line with previous reviews on the effect of other antimicrobial substances frequently used as adjuncts in non-surgical periodontal therapy [36, 37, 33]. Only one systematic review evaluated alternative locally applied agents and compared the PPD reduction to SRP alone [36]. The most frequently used and studied antimicrobial agents, chlorhexidine, minocycline and doxycycline, were also investigated in this review. Minocycline, locally applied as a gel or microencapsulated agent, showed a significant PPD reduction, whereas the use of chlorhexidine or doxycycline only displayed a significant effect on CAL gain.

The systematic review by Bonito and co-workers [11] showed an estimated reduction in PPD of 0.49 mm in favor of locally applied minocycline as an adjunct to SRP compared to SRP alone. Locally applied tetracycline presented a PPD reduction of 0.47 mm. The application of metronidazole and chlorhexidine were below these benchmark results. The review by Matesanz-Pérez [37] showed a PPD reduction value of 0.73 mm when tetracycline fibers were applied as an adjunct to SRP. Doxycyclin and Minocyclin showed less prominent effects in terms of PPD reduction, with mean values of 0.57 mm and 0.47 mm. The parallel-group study, which was not included to the meta-analysis treated 48 patients in a 6-month investigation, being the longest study launched. Nevertheless, no benefit in PPD reduction could be observed [33]. The findings of the present systematic review are therefore within the range of earlier findings for well-investigated locally applied antimicrobial or antibiotic agents.

Green tea is a non-fermented product of the *Camellia sinensis* leaf and has been used historically as a natural medicine for oral diseases [38]. Not surprisingly, all studies included in the current work, except one, were performed in Asia. Because of the applied language restriction, potentially relevant articles, which were not published in English, German or Spanish, were not included in this work. This may expose an overall publication bias. The different concentrations and release patterns of the green tea catechins within the broad range of materials used and the repeated application protocol of the LDD used in at least one of the studies could also lead to biased results and must be taken into consideration when interpreting these positive results.

The studies included and analysed showed a high degree of heterogeneity in terms of population characteristics, different green tea catechins used, carriers, application protocols and study periods. In addition, the sample sizes of the studies included

were generally rather small. Hirasawa and co-workers only included six patients and therefore got excluded from the systematic review [28]. Three studies included patients ranged from 30 to 55 years of age [29, 31]. One study did not mention the age of the patients included [30]. Furthermore, two studies did not exclude smokers from the study [30, 28]. The inconsistencies of these studies (age, diagnosis and smoking) are potential confounders and could lead to a misinterpretation of the real effect of green tea catechin.

Two studies included teeth with a PPD of 4 mm to 8 mm [29, 31], whereas two studies included teeth with a PPD greater than 5 mm only [30, 32]. No study classified the general condition of the teeth studied in terms of, i.e. number of roots, furcation involvement or restorations. These anatomical and restorative factors potentially affect the healing response and effects after SRP and may interfere in the effectiveness of the green tea catechins. The study periods varied from 3 weeks to 8 months, which may have an impact on the healing effect as endpoint. In addition, applied maintenance protocols were also inconsistently reported. Unfortunately, due to the small number of included studies, no stratification of the studies was possible.

In the current review, two different carriers were used for the sustained release of the green tea catechins. Two studies used a hydroxypropyl cellulose strip [32, 29], while the remaining studies used a carboxymethyl-cellulose-gel, a gel manufactured with carbomer and poloxamer or a thermosensitive hydro-alcoholic-gel. Furthermore, every study used custom-made green tea catechin products, which were manufactured by the research group itself or were purchased from different manufacturers (Sunphenon® or Geltec, both Mumbai, India).

Most of the studies investigated the adjunct of green tea catechin to SRP and compared the results to a control group which received a local placebo device as an adjunct to SRP. In two studies, the control group received only SRP without any local placebo material [32, 29]. Furthermore, all studies applied the local delivery devices once immediately after SRP.

Although green tea and its base catechins represent a natural product, adverse effects should also be considered. Unfortunately, only one study by Chava and co-workers explicitly reported no adverse effects and assessed this aspect [31].

Conclusion

The current meta-analysis found that the adjunctive application of green tea catechins result in a beneficial reduction of the probing pocket depth as compared to scaling and root planing with or without placebo. However, due to the high heterogeneity of the data and several risks of bias, this evidence needs to be interpreted with caution. To evaluate the true benefit of green tea catechin in the treatment of chronic periodontitis, further long-term investigations need to be conducted.

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Compliance with Ethical Standards

Conflict of interest The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Ethical Approval Ethical approval does not apply to a systematic review

Informed Consent Informed consent does not apply to a systematic review

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34. Mombelli A, Almaghlouth A, Cionca N, Courvoisier DS, Giannopoulou C. Differential benefits of amoxicillin-metronidazole in different phases of periodontal therapy in a randomized controlled crossover clinical trial. *Journal of periodontology*. 2015;86(3):367-75. doi:10.1902/jop.2014.140478.
35. Herrera D, van Winkelhoff AJ, Dellemijn-Kippuw N, Winkel EG, Sanz M. Beta-lactamase producing bacteria in the subgingival microflora of adult patients with periodontitis. A comparison between Spain and The Netherlands. *Journal of clinical periodontology*. 2000;27(7):520-5.
36. Hanes PJ, Purvis JP. Local anti-infective therapy: pharmacological agents. A systematic review. *Annals of periodontology*. 2003;8(1):79-98. doi:10.1902/annals.2003.8.1.79.
37. Matesanz-Perez P, Garcia-Gargallo M, Figuero E, Bascones-Martinez A, Sanz M, Herrera D. A systematic review on the effects of local antimicrobials as adjuncts to subgingival debridement, compared with subgingival debridement alone, in the treatment of chronic periodontitis. *Journal of clinical periodontology*. 2013;40(3):227-41. doi:10.1111/jcpe.12026.
38. Radafshar G, Ghotbizadeh M, Saadat F, Mirfarhadi N. Effects of green tea (*Camellia sinensis*) mouthwash containing 1% tannin on dental plaque and chronic gingivitis: a double-blinded, randomized, controlled trial. *Journal of investigative and clinical dentistry*. 2017;8(1). doi:10.1111/jicd.12184.

Fig. 1: Literature screening procedure (flow-chart)

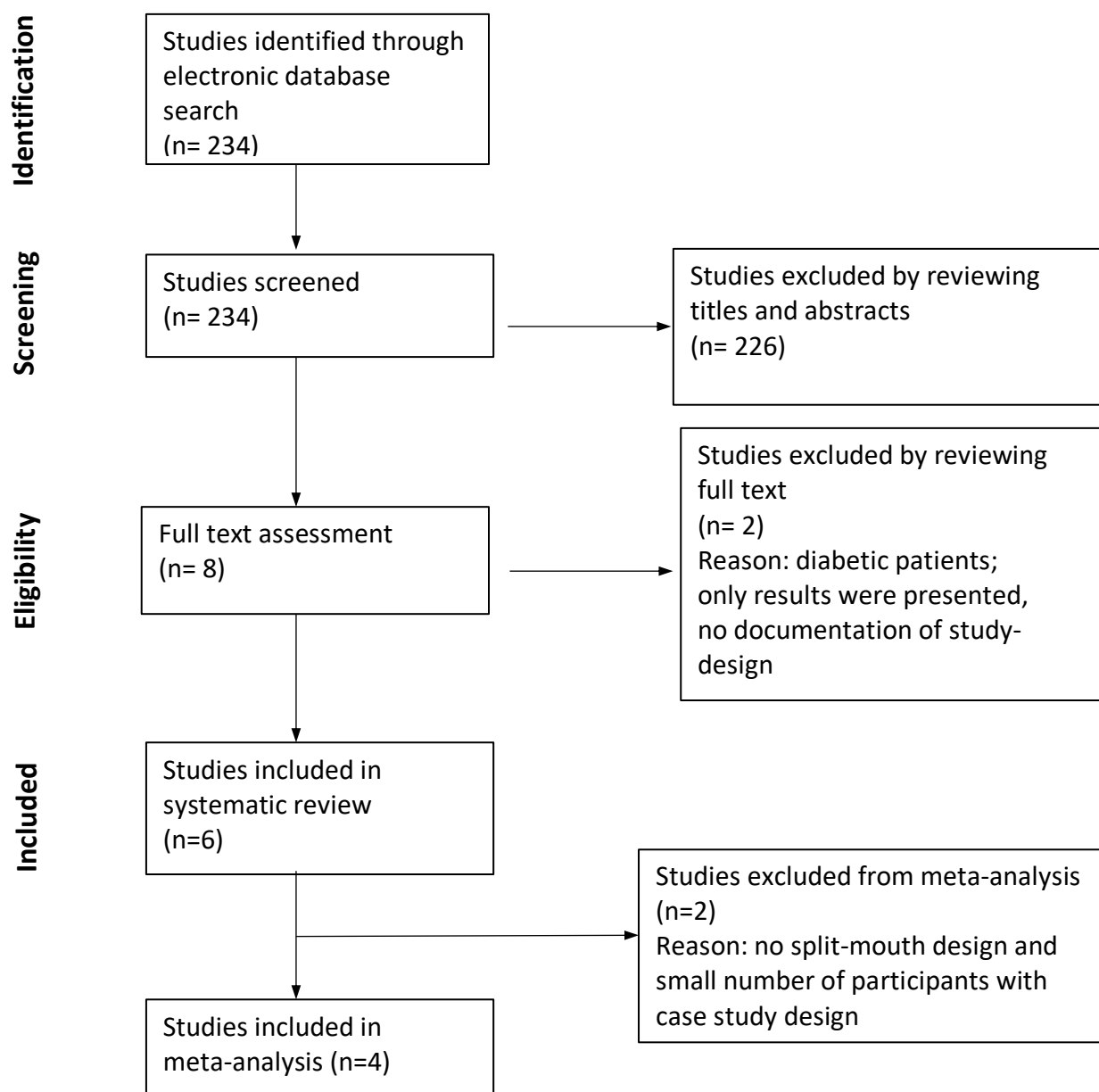


Table 1: Study characteristics of included studies to the review. Last study was excluded from the meta-analysis

First author (year of publication)	Population characteristics (ethnicity, age, inclusion criteria)	Number of subjects	study design, intervention	Local delivery device characteristics, point in time of application, study period	Analyzed parameters
Funosas ER (2005)	<p>ethnicity: nr age: nr</p> <p>inclusion criteria: chronic periodontitis at least 3 sites with PPD \geq 5 mm and not more than 2 mm CAL in each quadrant</p> <p>exclusion criteria: topical or systemic antibiotic treatment in the last 60 days or during study period</p>	50	<p>study design: split mouth at least three sites in each quadrant</p> <p>first quadrant: scaling and root planing second quadrant: green tee gel only third quadrant: scaling and root planing & green tea gel fourth quadrant: scaling and root planing & placebo gel</p>	<p>test gel: carboximethyl cellulose 1.5 g, green tea extract 1 g, distilled water 100 ml in a 1 % solution</p> <p>placebo gel: carboximethyl cellulose 1.5 g, distilled water 100 ml</p> <p>point in time of application: once, at baseline after scaling and root planing</p> <p>study period: 30 days</p>	<p>probing pocket depth plaque index (Silness and Loe 1967) gingiva Index (Loe and Silness 1963) bleeding on probing (Van der Velden, 1979) microbiological sample assessed for: Prevotella species Porphyromonas species Bacteroides species Propionibacterium species Actinomyces species</p>
Kudva (2011)	<p>ethnicity: nr 30 to 55 years</p> <p>inclusion criteria: chronic periodontitis at least 2 pockets of 5-8 mm in contralateral quadrants</p> <p>exclusion criteria: non-surgical or surgical periodontal therapy in the last 6 month topical or systemic antibiotic treatment in the last 6 month systemic diseases pregnant or lactating mothers smokers less than 20 scoreable teeth</p>	14	<p>study design: split mouth at least two sites in the contralateral quadrants</p> <p>test sites: scaling and root planing & green tea catechin strip (HPC)</p> <p>control sites: scaling and root planing alone</p>	<p>test strip: catechins used from green tea powder and hydroxypropyl cellulose (HPC) as the carrier</p> <p>point in time of application: once, at baseline after scaling and root planing</p> <p>study period: 21 days</p>	<p>probing pocket depth plaque index (Silness and Loe 1967) gingiva Index (Loe and Silness 1963) microbiological sample assessed for: Porphyromonas gingivalis Prevotella intermedia Aggregatibacter actinomycetemcomitans Fusobacterium species Capnocytophaga species</p>

First author (year of publication)	Population characteristics (ethnicity, age, inclusion criteria)	Number of subjects	study design, intervention	Local delivery device characteristics, point in time of application, study period	Analyzed parameters
Chava VK (2013)	<p>ethnicity: nr 28 to 40 years</p> <p>inclusion criteria: 1) chronic periodontitis based on local factors, associated clinical findings with probing depths of 4 to 6 mm in > 30 % of sites 2) patients willing to participate in the study and maintain regular appointments</p> <p>exclusion criteria: 1) systemic diseases 2) topical or antimicrobial treatment in the last 6 months, including the use of mouthwash 3) periodontal treatment in the past 6 months 4) pregnant and lactating mothers 5) smokers</p>	30	<p>study design: controlled, split-mouth single-evaluator masked study two sites with identical probing depths in the contralateral quadrants between 4 - 6 mm</p> <p>test sites: phase one therapy (scaling & root planing) & green tea gel</p> <p>control sites: phase one therapy (scaling & root planing) & placebo gel</p>	<p>test gel: to the 1 % weight/volume (1 g/100 mL) solution of green tea extract (Geltec, Mumbai, India) in distilled water, carbomer (Carbopol 934, Loba Chemie, Mumbai, India) was added in fixed quantity (1.5 % weight/volume). Poloxamer 407 at 22 % weight/volume (Pluronic F-127, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO) was added Total drug content > 97 %, (10 mg/ml)</p> <p>point in time of application: once, at baseline after scaling and root planing</p> <p>study period: 4 weeks</p>	<p>probing pocket depth gingiva Index (Loe and Silness 1963) relative clinical attachment loss</p> <p>in vitro release pattern of green tea extract gel</p>
Hattarki SA (2013)	<p>ethnicity: nr above 35 years</p> <p>inclusion criteria: untreated chronic periodontitis, age > 35 years, probing depth > 5 mm, more than 20 natural teeth</p> <p>exclusion criteria: medically compromised patients, antibiotic or antimicrobial therapy in the past 6 months, smokers, pregnant and lactating mothers</p>	20, 40 sites	<p>study design: randomized placebo controlled clinical trial, split mouth design, 2 sites in the contralateral quadrants with pocket probing depths over 5 mm</p> <p>test sites: full mouth scaling and root planing & green tea catechins strip covered by Coe-pack</p> <p>control sites: full mouth scaling and root planning alone</p>	<p>test strip: hydroxypropyl cellulose containing catechins (Ambe Phyto Extracts Pvt. Ltd., Hasanpur, Delhi)</p> <p>point in time of application: once, at baseline after scaling and root planing</p> <p>study period: 5 weeks</p>	<p>probing pocket depth plaque index (Silness and Loe 1967) gingiva Index (Loe and Silness 1963)</p> <p>microbiological analysis of red complex organism: Treponema denticola, Tannerella forsythia, Propyromonas gingivalis</p>
Rattanasuwan K (2014)	<p>ethnicity: nr above 35 years</p> <p>inclusion criteria: chronic periodontitis, no systemic complicating factors, not allergic to green tea or a product of green tea, probing pocket depths of 5 - 10 mm without furcation involvement, caries or restoration</p> <p>exclusion criteria: smokers, pregnant or lactating mothers, antibiotic therapy in the past 6 months, received a periodontitis therapy in the past 6 months</p>	48	<p>study design: randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled cohort study</p> <p>test sites: full mouth scaling and root planning & green tea gel application</p> <p>control sites: full mouth scaling and root planning & placebo gel application</p>	<p>test gel: themosensitive gel containing 12 % w/w of green tea extract (provided not less than 80 % of catechins)</p> <p>control gel: same ingredients as the green tea gel without green tea extract</p> <p>point in time of application: once, at baseline after scaling and root planing gel application was repeated after 1 and 2 weeks without scaling and root planing</p> <p>study period: 6 months after last gel application</p>	<p>probing pocket depth clinical attachment level gingiva Index (Loe and Silness 1963) bleeding on probing (Ainamo and Bay) full mouth plaque score (O'Leary)</p> <p>microbiological analysis of red complex organism: Treponema denticola, Tannerella forsythia, Propyromonas gingivalis</p>

Table 2: Results of probing pocket depth.

Reference (year of publication)	PPD _{Test} Baseline [mm]	PPD _{Test} End [mm]	PPD _{Control} Baseline [mm]	PPD _{Control} End [mm]	Intergroup Δ PPD _{Test} [mm]	Intergroup Δ PPD _{Control} [mm]	Intergroup p-value	Comparison Δ PPD _{Test} – Δ PPD _{Control} [mm]
Funosas ER (2005)	5.43 \pm 0.69	3.59 \pm 0.87	5.35 \pm 0.55	4.06 \pm 0.61	1.84 \pm nr	1.29 \pm nr	nr	0.55 \pm nr
Kudva (2011)	6.43 \pm 0.49	5.14 \pm 0.64	5.71 \pm 0.45	5.14 \pm 0.35	1.28 \pm 0.70	0.57 \pm 0.49	<0.001	0.71 \pm nr
Chava VK (2013)	4.93 \pm 0.58	2.87 \pm 0.51	4.77 \pm 0.50	3.80 \pm 0.48	2.06 \pm 0.07	0.97 \pm 0.02	<0.0001	1.09 \pm nr
Hattarki SA (2013)	6.20 \pm 1.28	4.60 \pm 1.23	5.65 \pm 0.99	4.45 \pm 1.23	1.60 \pm 0.68	1.20 \pm 0.76	0.089	0.40 \pm nr
Rattanasuwan K (2014)	5.84 \pm 1.11	3.13 \pm 1.20	5.50 \pm 0.91	2.83 \pm 1.14	2.71 \pm nr	2.67 \pm nr	0.236	0.04 \pm nr
Mean					1.89 \pm nr	1.34 \pm nr		

Table 3: Results of gingiva index

Reference (year of publication)	GI _{Test} Baseline	GI _{Test} End	GI _{Control} Baseline	GI _{Control} End	Intergroup Δ GI _{Test}	Intergroup Δ GI _{Control}	Intergrou p p-value	Comparison Δ GI _{Test} – Δ PPD _{Control}
Funosas ER (2005)	1.85 \pm 0.33	0.75 \pm 0.04	1.67 \pm 0.41	0.97 \pm 0.05	1.1 \pm nr	0.7 \pm nr	nr	0.40 \pm nr
Kudva (2011)	1.67 \pm 0.37	0.96 \pm 0.09	1.75 \pm 0.40	1.11 \pm 0.12	0.71 \pm 0.39	0.64 \pm 0.35	> 0.05	0.07 \pm nr
Chava VK (2013)	1.92 \pm 0.24	0.01 \pm 0.04	1.95 \pm 0.16	0.16 \pm 0.11	1.91 \pm 0.20	1.97 \pm 0.05	< 0.0023	0.12 \pm nr
Hattarki SA (2013)	2.00 \pm 0.72	0.85 \pm 0.36	2.00 \pm 0.72	0.90 \pm 0.31	1.15 \pm 0.58	1.1 \pm 0.64	nr	0.05 \pm nr
Rattanasuwan K (2014)	1.95 \pm 0.22	0.78 \pm 0.79	2.00 \pm 0.33	0.75 \pm 0.82	1.17 \pm nr	1.25 \pm nr	nr	-0.08 \pm nr
Mean					1.20 \pm nr	1.13 \pm nr		

Table 4 : Results of plaque index

REFERENCE (YEAR OF PUBLICATION)	PI _{TEST} BASELINE	PI _{TEST} END	PI _{CONTROL} BASELINE	PI _{CONTROL} END	INTERGROUP Δ PI _{TEST}	INTERGROUP Δ PI _{CONTROL}	INTERGROUP P-VALUE
FUNOSAS ER (2005)	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
KUDVA (2011) [38]	2.10 \pm 0.55	0.78 \pm 0.25	2.25 \pm 0.53	1.18 \pm 0.17	1.33 \pm 0.56	1.07 \pm 0.48	> 0.05
CHAVA VK (2013)	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
HATTARKI SA (2013)	1.80 \pm 0.61	0.90 \pm 0.31	1.80 \pm 0.61	0.90 \pm 0.31	0.90 \pm 0.55	0.90 \pm 0.55	1
RATTANASUWAN K (2014)	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr	nr
MEAN					1.12 \pm nr	0.99 \pm nr	

Appendix 1: Pubmed search strategy

Step	Query	Hits
1	Search (((periodontal[tiab] OR parodontal[tiab] OR paradontal[tiab]) AND (disease[tiab] OR diseases[tiab] OR loss[tiab] OR pocket[tiab] OR pockets[tiab] OR abscess[tiab] OR abscesses[tiab] OR index[tiab])) OR (pericementitides[tiab] OR pericementitis[tiab] OR periodontitides[tiab] OR periodontitis[tiab] OR periodontoses[tiab] OR periodontosis[tiab] OR paradontitis[tiab] OR parodontitis[tiab]) OR (attachment[tiab] AND loss[tiab]) OR ((clinical[tiab] OR periodontal[tiab] OR parodontal[tiab] OR paradontal[tiab]) AND attachment[tiab]))	49475
2	Search (((camellia[tiab] AND (chinensis[tiab] OR sinensis[tiab])) OR ("green tea" [tiab] OR epigallocatechin[tiab] OR gallate[tiab] OR "gallic acid"[tiab] OR Veregen[tiab] OR Exolise[tiab]))	14095
3	Search ((((((periodontal[tiab] OR parodontal[tiab] OR paradontal[tiab]) AND (disease[tiab] OR diseases[tiab] OR loss[tiab] OR pocket[tiab] OR pockets[tiab] OR abscess[tiab] OR abscesses[tiab] OR index[tiab])) OR (pericementitides[tiab] OR pericementitis[tiab] OR periodontitides[tiab] OR periodontitis[tiab] OR periodontoses[tiab] OR periodontosis[tiab] OR paradontitis[tiab] OR parodontitis[tiab]) OR (attachment[tiab] AND loss[tiab]) OR ((clinical[tiab] OR periodontal[tiab] OR parodontal[tiab] OR paradontal[tiab]) AND attachment[tiab]))) AND (((camellia[tiab] AND (chinensis[tiab] OR sinensis[tiab])) OR ("green tea"[tiab] OR epigallocatechin[tiab] OR gallate[tiab] OR "gallic acid"[tiab] OR Veregen[tiab] OR Exolise[tiab]))	57
4	Search ((inprocess[sb])) OR (publisher[sb] NOT pubstatusnihms NOT pubstatuspmcsd NOT pmcbook)	1077566
5	Search (((((((periodontal[tiab] OR parodontal[tiab] OR paradontal[tiab]) AND (disease[tiab] OR diseases[tiab] OR loss[tiab] OR pocket[tiab] OR pockets[tiab] OR abscess[tiab] OR abscesses[tiab] OR index[tiab])) OR (pericementitides[tiab] OR pericementitis[tiab] OR periodontitides[tiab] OR periodontitis[tiab] OR periodontoses[tiab] OR periodontosis[tiab] OR paradontitis[tiab] OR parodontitis[tiab]) OR (attachment[tiab] AND loss[tiab]) OR ((clinical[tiab] OR periodontal[tiab] OR parodontal[tiab] OR paradontal[tiab]) AND attachment[tiab]))) AND (((camellia[tiab] AND (chinensis[tiab] OR sinensis[tiab])) OR ("green tea"[tiab] OR epigallocatechin[tiab] OR gallate[tiab] OR "gallic acid"[tiab] OR Veregen[tiab] OR Exolise[tiab]))) AND (((inprocess[sb])) OR (publisher[sb] NOT pubstatusnihms NOT pubstatuspmcsd NOT pmcbook))	8

Appendix 2: Excluded studies

Excluded studies	Reason for exclusion
5th Joint Meeting of the European Tissue Repair Society and the Wound Healing Society. <i>Wound Repair & Regeneration</i> . 2009;17(4):A54–871p.	Not addressing research question
Abdulbaqi HR, Himratul-Aznita WH, Baharuddin NA. Anti-plaque effect of a synergistic combination of green tea and <i>Salvadora persica</i> L. against primary colonizers of dental plaque. <i>Arch Oral Biol</i> . 2016;70:117-124. doi:10.1016/j.archoralbio.2016.06.011.	Not addressing research question
Abdulbaqi HR, Himratul-Aznita WH, Baharuddin NA. Evaluation of <i>Salvadora persica</i> L. and green tea anti-plaque effect: a randomized controlled crossover clinical trial. <i>BMC Complement Altern Med</i> . 2016;16(1):7. doi:10.1186/s12906-016-1487-0.	Not addressing research question
Abreu P, Matthew S, Gonzalez T, Costa D, Segundo MA, Fernandes E. Anti-inflammatory and antioxidant activity of a medicinal tincture from <i>Pedilanthus tithymaloides</i> . <i>Life Sciences</i> . 2006;78(14):1578-1585. doi:10.1016/j.lfs.2005.07.037.	Not addressing research question
Allaker RP, Douglas CWI. Novel anti-microbial therapies for dental plaque-related diseases. <i>International Journal of Antimicrobial Agents</i> . 2009;33(1):8-13. doi:10.1016/j.ijantimicag.2008.07.014.	Not addressing research question
Amurdhavani BS. Benefits of green tea in dentistry-a review. <i>Res J Pharm Technol</i> . 2015;8(6):772-774. doi:10.5958/0974-360X.2015.00124.9.	Review
Anonymous. Green tea and oral health examined in study. <i>Br Dent J</i> . 2010;208(9):384. doi:10.1038/sj.bdj.2010.436.	Not addressing research question
Arab H, Maroofian A, Golestani S, Shafae H, Sohrabi K, Forouzanfar A. Review of The therapeutic effects of <i>Camellia sinensis</i> (green tea) on oral and periodontal health. <i>Journal of Medicinal Plants Research</i> . 2011;5(23):5465-5469.	Review
Araghizadeh A, Kohanteb J, Fani MM. Inhibitory activity of green tea (<i>Camellia sinensis</i>) extract on some clinically isolated cariogenic and periodontopathic bacteria. <i>Med Princ Pract</i> . 2013;22(4):368-372. doi:10.1159/000348299.	Not addressing research question
Ardakani MRT, Golmohammadi S, Ayremlou S, Taheri S, Daneshvar S, Meimandi M. Antibacterial Effect of Iranian Green-Tea-containing Mouthrinse vs Chlorhexidine 0.2%: An In Vitro Study. <i>Oral health prev</i> . 2014;12(2):157-162.	Not addressing research question
Asahi Y, Noiri Y, Miura J, et al. Effects of the tea catechin epigallocatechin gallate on <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> biofilms. <i>J Appl Microbiol</i> . 2014;116(5):1164-1171. doi:10.1111/jam.12458.	Not addressing research question
Avery MD. Current Resources for Evidence-Based Practice, May/June 2014. <i>JOGNN: Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing</i> . 2014;43(3):E22–91p. doi:10.1111/1552-6909.12314.	Not addressing research question
Awadalla HI, Ragab MH, Bassuoni MW, Fayed MT, Abbas MO. A pilot study of the role of green tea use on oral health. <i>Int J Dent Hygiene</i> . 2011;9(2):110-116. doi:10.1111/j.1601-5037.2009.00440.x.	Not addressing research question
Azelmat J, Larente JF, Grenier D. The anthraquinone rhein exhibits synergistic antibacterial activity in association with metronidazole or natural compounds and attenuates virulence gene expression in <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> . <i>Arch Oral Biol</i> . 2015;60(2):342-346. doi:10.1016/j.archoralbio.2014.11.006.	Not addressing research question
Bai LL, Takagi S, Ando T, et al. Antimicrobial activity of tea catechin against canine oral bacteria and the functional mechanisms. <i>J Vet Med Sci</i> . 2016;78(9):1439-1445. doi:10.1292/jvms.16-0198.	Not addressing research question
Barilla J. Longevity. Healthy gums, healthy body: your gums are the key to a healthy smile, and more. <i>Better Nutrition</i> . 2000;62(3):24–262p.	Not addressing research question

Bedran TBL, Morin MP, Spolidorio DP, Grenier D. Black tea extract and its theaflavin derivatives inhibit the growth of periodontopathogens and modulate interleukin-8 and β -defensin secretion in oral epithelial cells. <i>PLoS ONE</i> . 2015;10(11). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0143158.	Not addressing research question
Ben Lagha A, Grenier D. Tea polyphenols inhibit the activation of NF-kappa B and the secretion of cytokines and matrix metalloproteinases by macrophages stimulated with <i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i> . <i>Sci Rep</i> . 2016;6:11. doi:10.1038/srep34520.	Not addressing research question
Bioactive Foods in Promoting Health. Elsevier Inc.; 2010.	Not addressing research question
Cai L, Wu CD. Compounds from <i>Syzygium aromaticum</i> possessing growth inhibitory activity against oral pathogens. <i>J NAT PROD</i> . 1996;59(10):987-990. doi:10.1021/np960451q.	Not addressing research question
Cai Y, Chen Z, Liu H, Xuan Y, Wang X, Luan Q. Green tea epigallocatechin-3-gallate alleviates <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> -induced periodontitis in mice. <i>Int Immunopharmacol</i> . 2015;29(2):839-845. doi:10.1016/j.intimp.2015.08.033.	Not addressing research question
Cai Y, Chen Z, Liu H, Xuan Y, Wang X, Luan Q. Green tea epigallocatechin-3-gallate alleviates <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> -induced periodontitis in mice. <i>Int Immunopharmacol</i> . 2015;29(2):839-845. doi:10.1016/j.intimp.2015.08.033.	In vitro study
Chang HS, Hwang HJ, Kang EH, et al. The effect of green tea bag in dogs with periodontal disease. <i>J Vet Clin</i> . 2009;26(1):41-47.	Not addressing research question
Chatterjee A, Saluja M, Agarwal G, Alam M. Green tea: A boon for periodontal and general health. <i>J Indian Soc Periodontol</i> . 2012;16(2):161-167. doi:10.4103/0972-124X.99256.	Review
Chava VK, Vedula BD. Thermo-reversible green tea catechin gel for local application in chronic periodontitis: a 4-week clinical trial. <i>Journal of Periodontology</i> . 2013;84(9):1290-1296. doi:10.1902/jop.2012.120425.	Full text assessment
Chinsembu KC. Plants and other natural products used in the management of oral infections and improvement of oral health. <i>Acta Trop</i> . 2016;154:6-18. doi:10.1016/j.actatropica.2015.10.019.	Not addressing research question
Cho AR, Kim JH, Lee DE, et al. The effect of orally administered epigallocatechin-3-gallate on ligature-induced periodontitis in rats. <i>J Periodontal Res</i> . 2013;48(6):781-7899p. doi:10.1111/jre.12071.	Not addressing research question
Chopra A, Thomas BS, Sivaraman K, Prasad HK, Kamath SU. Green Tea Intake as an Adjunct to Mechanical Periodontal Therapy for the Management of Mild to Moderate Chronic Periodontitis: A Randomized Controlled Clinical Trial. <i>Oral health prev</i> . 2016;14(4):293-303. doi:10.3290/j.ohpd.a36100.	Not addressing research question
Clutterbuck AL, Asplin KE, Harris P, Allaway D, Mobasheri A. Targeting matrix metalloproteinases in inflammatory conditions. <i>Curr Drug Targets</i> . 2009;10(12):1245-1254. doi:10.2174/138945009789753264.	Not addressing research question
Counteraction to Chemical and Biological Terrorism in East European Countries. Dordrecht: Springer; 2009.	Not addressing research question
Coutts A. Clinical. Nutrition and the life cycle 4: the healthy diet for the adult. <i>British Journal of Nursing</i> . 2001;10(6):362-3697p.	Not addressing research question
Current Trends in Periodontics and Implant Dentistry. Nova Science Publishers, Inc.; 2013.	Not addressing research question
D'Dharan SR, Neelakantan P. Therapeutic uses of cranberry (<i>Vaccinium macrocarpon</i>) extract - A review. <i>Intl J Pharmacogn Phytochem Res</i> . 2013;5(3):197-199.	Not addressing research question
Da Silva APB, Bissada NF. Genetic and behavioral risk factors associated with periodontal disease. In: <i>Current Trends in Periodontics and Implant Dentistry</i> . Nova Science Publishers, Inc.; 2013:41-59.	Not addressing research question
de Oliveira JS, Pinto M, Santana LDD, Pinto ASB, di Lenardo D, Vasconcelos DFP. Biological Effects of Medicinal Plants on Induced Periodontitis: A Systematic Review. <i>Int J Dent</i> . 2016;10. doi:10.1155/2016/3719879.	Not addressing research question

De Sá Siqueira MA, Fischer RG, Figueredo CMDS, Brunini TMC, Mendes-Ribeiro AC. Nitric oxide and oral diseases: Can we talk about it? <i>cardiovasc Hematol Agents Med Chem</i> . 2010;8(2):104-112. doi:10.2174/187152510791170942.	Not addressing research question
Desjardins J, Grenier D. Neutralizing effect of green tea epigallocatechin-3-gallate on nicotine-induced toxicity and chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 5 secretion in human oral epithelial cells and fibroblasts. <i>J Investig Clin Dent</i> . 2012;3(3):189-197. doi:10.1111/j.2041-1626.2011.00103.x.	Not addressing research question
Dumitrescu AL. Exploring the relationship between nutrition and periodontal disease. In: <i>Oral Health: Anesthetic Management, Social Determinants, Role of Nutrition and Impact on Quality of Life</i> . Nova Science Publishers, Inc.; 2015:65-90.	Not addressing research question
Elnaggar WA, Taha TH, El-Deeb NM, Arafat HH. Efficacy of non-cytotoxic doses of some medicinal plant extracts as antibacterial and anti-biofilm agents against cariogenic bacterium streptococcus mutans. <i>Biosci Biotechnol Res Asia</i> . 2016;13(2):1279-1284. doi:10.13005/bbra/2163.	Not addressing research question
Erickson K. Tea time. <i>Better Nutrition</i> . 2008;70(10):38-[40]2p.	Not addressing research question
Esimone CO, Adikwu MU, Nwafor SV, Okolo CO. Potential use of tea extract as a complementary mouthwash: comparative evaluation of two commercial samples. <i>Journal of Alternative & Complementary Medicine</i> . 2001;7(5):523-5275p. doi:10.1089/10755530152639747.	Not addressing research question
Food Constituents and Oral Health: Current Status and Future Prospects. Cambridge: Woodhead Publ Ltd; 2009.	Not addressing research question
Fournier-Larente J, Morin MP, Grenier D. Green tea catechins potentiate the effect of antibiotics and modulate adherence and gene expression in <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> . <i>Arch Oral Biol</i> . 2016;65:35-43. doi:10.1016/j.archoralbio.2016.01.014.	Not addressing research question
Funosas ER, Martínez AB, Pignolo M, et al. Efficacy of green tea in the treatment of chronic periodontitis. <i>Av Odontoestomatol</i> . 2005;21(3):159-166.	full text assessment
Funosas ER, Martínez AB, Pignolo M, Maestri L, Lucena PSH. Green tea subgingival gel effectiveness in chronic periodontitis. <i>Journal of Dental Research</i> . 2003;82:18-18.	conference paper/duplicate N°63/ paper requested
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Gaur S, Agnihotri R. Green tea: a novel functional food for the oral health of older adults. <i>Geriatrics & Gerontology International</i> . 2014;14(2):238-250. doi:10.1111/ggi.12194.	Review
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Okamoto M, Sugimoto A, Leung K-P, Nakayama K, Kamaguchi A, Maeda N. Inhibitory effect of green tea catechins on cysteine proteinases in <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> . <i>Oral Microbiol Immunol.</i> 2004;19(2):118-120. doi:10.1046/j.0902-0055.2003.00112.x.	Not addressing research question
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Ramasamy C. Potential natural antioxidants: adjuvant effect of green tea polyphenols in periodontal infections. <i>Infect Disord Drug Targets</i> . 2015;15(3):141-152.	Review
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Rattanasuwan K, Rassameemasmaung S, Sangalungkarn V, Komoltri C. Clinical effect of locally delivered gel containing green tea extract as an adjunct to non-surgical periodontal treatment. <i>Odontology</i> . 2016;104(1):89-97. doi:10.1007/s10266-014-0190-1.	Duplicate / already included
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Recently published abstracts. <i>Alternative Medicine Review</i> . 2010;15(4):369–38012p.	Not addressing research question
Rowan AD, Litherland GJ, Hui W, Milner JM. Metalloproteases as potential therapeutic targets in arthritis treatment. <i>Expert Opin Ther Targets</i> . 2008;12(1):1-18. doi:10.1517/14728222.12.1.1.	Not addressing research question
Sakanaka S, Okada Y. Inhibitory effects of green tea polyphenols on the production of a virulence factor of the periodontal-disease-causing anaerobic bacterium Porphyromonas gingivalis. <i>J Agric Food Chem</i> . 2004;52(6):1688-1692.	Not addressing research question
Sakanaka S, Okada Y. Inhibitory effects of green tea polyphenols on the production of a virulence factor of the periodontal-disease-causing anaerobic bacterium Porphyromonas gingivalis. <i>J Agric Food Chem</i> . 2004;52(6):1688-1692.	Not addressing research question
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Schmuck J, Beckert S, Brandt S, et al. Extract from Rumex acetosa L. for prophylaxis of periodontitis: inhibition of bacterial in vitro adhesion and of gingipains of Porphyromonas gingivalis by epicatechin-3-O-(4beta->8)-epicatechin-3-O-gallate (procyanidin-B2-Di-gallate). <i>PLoS ONE</i> . 2015;10(3):e0120130. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0120130.	Not addressing research question
Schmuck J, Beckert S, Brandt S, et al. Extract from Rumex acetosa L. for prophylaxis of periodontitis: Inhibition of bacterial in vitro adhesion and of gingipains of Porphyromonas gingivalis by epicatechin-3-O-(4β→8)-epicatechin-3-O-gallate (procyanidin-B2-di-gallate). <i>PLoS ONE</i> . 2015;10(3). doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0120130.	Not addressing research question
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Sherman L. News. <i>Journal of Chinese Medicine</i> . 2010;(92):74–829p.	Not addressing

	research question
Shuman IE. The gentle art of periodontal maintenance: A protocol using essential oils. <i>Dent Today</i> . 2003;22(4):50-57.	Not addressing research question
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Simran P, Rajkumar P. Nitric oxide and inflammatory periodontal disease. <i>General Dentistry</i> . 2015;63(2):34–407p.	Not addressing research question
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Soory M. Inflammatory mechanisms and redox status in periodontal and cardiometabolic diseases: Effects of adjunctive nutritional antioxidants and statins. <i>Infect Disord Drug Targets</i> . 2012;12(4):301-315.	Not addressing research question
Spratt DA, Daglia M, Papetti A, et al. Evaluation of Plant and Fungal Extracts for Their Potential Antigingivitis and Anticaries Activity. <i>J Biomed Biotechnol</i> . 2012;2012:1–1212p.	Not addressing research question
Strausfogel S. Dental care to smile about. <i>Better Nutrition</i> . 2007;69(2):42–421p.	Not addressing research question
Strausfogel S. Gum health guide. <i>Better Nutrition</i> . 2008;70(11):32–342p.	Not addressing research question
Studies on Periodontal Disease. New York: Springer	Not addressing research question
Subapriya R, Nagini S. Medicinal properties of neem leaves: A review. <i>Curr Med Chem Anti-Cancer Agents</i> . 2005;5(2):149-156. doi:10.2174/1568011053174828.	Not addressing research question
Surathu N, Kurumathur AV. Traditional therapies in the management of periodontal disease in India and China. <i>Periodontology</i> 2000. 2011;56:14-24. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0757.2010.00369.x.	Not addressing research question
Tamura M, Saito H, Kikuchi K, et al. Antimicrobial Activity of Gel-Entrapped Catechins toward Oral Microorganisms. <i>Biol Pharm Bull</i> . 2011;34(5):638-643.	In vitro study
Tanaka K, Miyake Y, Sasaki S, et al. Beverage consumption and the prevalence of tooth loss in pregnant Japanese women: the Osaka Maternal and Child Health Study. <i>Fukuoka Igaku Zasshi</i> . 2008;99(4):80-89.	Not addressing research question
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Tomofuji T, Ekuni D, Mizutani S, Morita M. <i>Effects of Antioxidants on Periodontal Disease</i> . (Ekuni D, Battino M, Tomofuji T, Putnins EE, eds.). New York: Springer; 2014:279-305. doi:10.1007/978-1-4614-9557-4_18.	Not addressing research question
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Venkateswara B, Sirisha K, Chava VK. Green tea extract for periodontal health. <i>J Indian Soc Periodontol</i> . 2011;15(1):18-22. doi:10.4103/0972-124X.82258.	Review
Venkateswara B, Sirisha K, Chava VK. Green tea extract for periodontal health. <i>J Indian Soc Periodontol</i> . 2011;15(1):18-22. doi:10.4103/0972-124X.82258.	Review/Duplicate
Vervelle A, Mouhyi J, Del Corso M, Hippolyte M-P, Sammartino G, Ehrenfest DMD. Mouthwash solutions with microencapsuled natural extracts: Efficiency for dental plaque and gingivitis. <i>Rev Stomatol Chir Maxillofac</i> . 2010;111(3):148-151. doi:10.1016/j.stomax.2009.09.014.	Not addressing research question
Viana GSB, Menezes SMS, Cordeiro LN, Matos FJA. Biological effects of pomegranate (<i>Punica granatum</i> L.), especially its antibacterial actions, against microorganisms present in the dental plaque and other infectious processes. In: <i>Bioactive Foods in Promoting Health</i> . Elsevier Inc.; 2010:457-478. doi:10.1016/B978-0-12-374628-3.00031-1.	Not addressing research question
Vyas A, Syeda K, Ahmad A, Padhye S, Sarkar FH. Perspectives on medicinal properties of mangiferin. <i>Mini-Rev Med Chem</i> . 2012;12(5):412-425.	Not addressing research question
Walker WA, Martens EC, Sherman PM, Lampe JW, Hullar MAJ, Wu CD. Functional foods for health promotion: microbes and health: extended abstracts from the 11th Annual Conference on Functional Foods for Health Promotion, April 2008. <i>Nutrition Reviews</i> . 2009;67(1):40–489p.	Not addressing research question
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Wen WC, Kuo PJ, Chiang CY, Chin YT, Fu MMJ, Fu E. Epigallocatechin-3-Gallate Attenuates <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> Lipopolysaccharide-Enhanced Matrix Metalloproteinase-1 Production Through Inhibition of Interleukin-6 in Gingival Fibroblasts. <i>Journal of Periodontology</i> . 2014;85(6):868-875. doi:10.1902/jop.2013.120714.	Not addressing research question
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Wojtaszek C. Management of chemotherapy-induced stomatitis. <i>Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing</i> . 2000;4(6):263–28210p.	Not addressing research question
Wolle CFB, Zollmann LD, Etges A, Vitalis GS, Leite CE, Campos MM. Effects of the Antioxidant Agent Tempol on Periapical Lesions in Rats with Doxorubicin-induced Cardiomyopathy. <i>J Endod</i> . 2012;38(2):191-195. doi:10.1016/j.joen.2011.11.007.	Not addressing research question
Wood N. Oral health -- how to reduce risks of periodontitis. <i>Positive Health</i> . 2006;(127):30–356p.	Not addressing research question
Wyganowska-ŚWjatkowska M, Surdacka A, Skrzypczak-Jankun E, Jankun J. The plasminogen activation system in periodontal tissue (Review). <i>Int J Mol Med</i> . 2014;33(4):763-768. doi:10.3892/ijmm.2014.1653.	Not addressing research question
Xu X, Zhou XD, Wu CD. Tea Catechin EGCg Suppresses the mgl Gene Associated with Halitosis. <i>Journal of Dental Research</i> . 2010;89(11):1304-1308. doi:10.1177/0022034510378682.	Not addressing research question
Yamanaka A, Kouchi T, Kasai K, Kato T, Ishihara K, Okuda K. Inhibitory effect of cranberry polyphenol on biofilm formation and cysteine proteases of <i>Porphyromonas gingivalis</i> . <i>J Periodontol Res</i> . 2007;42(6):589-592. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0765.2007.00982.x.	Not addressing research question
Yiannakopoulou EC. Recent patents on antibacterial, antifungal and antiviral properties of tea. <i>Recent Pat Anti-Infect Drug Discov</i> . 2012;7(1):60-65. doi:10.2174/157489112799829738.	Not addressing research question

Yoshinaga Y, Ukai T, Nakatsu S, et al. Green tea extract inhibits the onset of periodontal destruction in rat experimental periodontitis. <i>J Periodontal Res.</i> 2014;49(5):652–6598p. doi:10.1111/jre.12147.	In vitro study
You SQ. [Study on feasibility of Chinese green tea polyphenols (CTP) for preventing dental caries]. <i>Chung Hua Kou Chiang Hsueh Tsa Chih.</i> 1993;28(4):197–9–254.	Not addressing research question
Yuan FL, Xu RS, Jiang DL, et al. Leonurine hydrochloride inhibits osteoclastogenesis and prevents osteoporosis associated with estrogen deficiency by inhibiting the NF-κB and PI3K/Akt signaling pathways. <i>Bone.</i> 2015;75:128-137. doi:10.1016/j.bone.2015.02.017.	Not addressing research question
Yun JH, Kim CS, Cho KS, Chai JK, Kim CK, Choi SH. (-)-Epigallocatechin gallate induces apoptosis, via caspase activation, in osteoclasts differentiated from RAW 264.7 cells. <i>J Periodontal Res.</i> 2007;42(3):212-218. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0765.2006.00935.x.	Not addressing research question
Yun JH, Pang EK, Kim CS, et al. Inhibitory effects of green tea polyphenol (-)-epigallocatechin gallate on the expression of matrix metalloproteinase-9 and on the formation of osteoclasts. <i>J Periodontal Res.</i> 2004;39(5):300-307. doi:10.1111/j.1600-0765.2004.00743.x.	Not addressing research question
Yuvaraja M, Reddy NR, Kumar PM, Ravi KS, Alqahtani N. Thermoreversible gel for intrapocket delivery of green tea catechin as a local drug delivery system: An original research. <i>J.</i> 2016;7(4):139-143.	full text assessment
Zagorouiko V, Mizin V, Bogadelnikov I, Ogay U. The Dietary Grape Polyphenol Concentrate “ENOANT” Enables Protection Against Biological Agents. In: Dishovsky C, Pivovarov A, eds. <i>Counteraction to Chemical and Biological Terrorism in East European Countries.</i> Dordrecht: Springer; 2009:167-176. doi:10.1007/978-90-481-2342-1_21.	Not addressing research question
Zhao L, La VD, Grenier D. Antibacterial, antiadherence, antiprotease, and anti-inflammatory activities of various tea extracts: potential benefits for periodontal diseases. <i>J med food.</i> 2013;16(5):428-436. doi:10.1089/jmf.2012.0207.	Not addressing research question

Appendix 3 Scores for assessment of methodological and reporting quality^a.

Phase of the study	Item	Question	Answers	Funosas ER (2005)	Kudva (2011)	Chava VK (2013)	Hattarki SA (2013)	Rattanas uwan K (2014)
Registration	Ethic committee	Done?	0 = no/NR; 1 = yes	0	0	1	1	1
	Informed consent	Done?	0 = no/NR; 1 = yes	1	1	1	1	1
Funding	Independent funding	Described?	0 = private/industry/NR; 1 = university/government/self	1	1	1	1	1
Randomization	Sequence generation	Done?	0 = inadequate/NR; 1 = adequate	0	0	1	0	0
	Allocation concealment	Done?	0 = inadequate/NR; 1 = adequate	0	0	1	0	0
Blinding	Patient	Done?	0 = inadequate/NR; 1 = adequate	0	0	0	0	0
	Examiner	Done?	0 = inadequate/NR; 1 = adequate	0	0	0	0	0
	Therapist	Done?	0 = inadequate/NR; 1 = adequate	0	0	0	0	1
Participants	Clear definition of eligibility criteria	Described?	0 = no; 1 = yes	0	0	0	0	1
				1	1	1	1	1
Statistics	Appropriate statistical analysis	Done?	0 = no/NR; 1 = yes	1	1	1	1	1
Calibration	Calibration	Done?	0 = no/NR; 1 = yes	1	0	1	0	1
Completeness of outcome data	Sample size calculation & power analysis	Done?	0 = no/NR; 1 = yes	0	0	1	0	1
	Missing outcome data reported	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes/no dropouts	1	1	1	1	1
	Reasons for dropouts specified	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes	0	0	1	0	1
Other sources of bias	Were systemic diseases and medication reported?	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes	0	0	0	0	1
	Were clinical periodontal conditions specified?	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes	1	1	1	1	1
	Was smoking reported?	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes	0	1	1	1	1
	Were oral hygiene levels reported?	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes	1	1	1	1	1
	Were tooth types specified?	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes	0	0	0	0	0
	Were sources of green tee agents reported?	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes	1	1	1	1	1
	Was percentage and frequency of agent application reported?	Reported?	0 = no; 1 = yes	1	1	1	1	1

^a, adapted from Graziani et al. 2012; nr, not reported.

Appendix

PRISMA Checklist

Section/topic	#	Checklist item	Reported on page #
TITLE			
Title	1	Identify the report as a systematic review, meta-analysis, or both.	1
ABSTRACT			
Structured summary	2	Provide a structured summary including, as applicable: background; objectives; data sources; study eligibility criteria, participants, and interventions; study appraisal and synthesis methods; results; limitations; conclusions and implications of key findings; systematic review registration number.	2
INTRODUCTION			
Rationale	3	Describe the rationale for the review in the context of what is already known.	4, 5
Objectives	4	Provide an explicit statement of questions being addressed with reference to participants, interventions, comparisons, outcomes, and study design (PICOS).	6
METHODS			
Protocol and registration	5	Indicate if a review protocol exists, if and where it can be accessed (e.g., Web address), and, if available, provide registration information including registration number.	5
Eligibility criteria	6	Specify study characteristics (e.g., PICOS, length of follow-up) and report characteristics (e.g., years considered, language, publication status) used as criteria for eligibility, giving rationale.	6
Information sources	7	Describe all information sources (e.g., databases with dates of coverage, contact with study authors to identify additional studies) in the search and date last searched.	6
Search	8	Present full electronic search strategy for at least one database, including any limits used, such that it could be repeated.	6
Study selection	9	State the process for selecting studies (i.e., screening, eligibility, included in systematic review, and, if applicable, included in the meta-analysis).	6, 7
Data collection process	10	Describe method of data extraction from reports (e.g., piloted forms, independently, in duplicate) and any processes for obtaining and confirming data from investigators.	7
Data items	11	List and define all variables for which data were sought (e.g., PICOS, funding sources) and any assumptions and simplifications made.	7, 8
Risk of bias in individual studies	12	Describe methods used for assessing risk of bias of individual studies (including specification of whether this was done at the study or outcome level), and how this information is to be used in any data synthesis.	7
Summary measures	13	State the principal summary measures (e.g., risk ratio, difference in means).	7
Synthesis of results	14	Describe the methods of handling data and combining results of studies, if done, including measures of consistency (e.g., I^2) for each meta-analysis.	7, 8
Risk of bias across studies	15	Specify any assessment of risk of bias that may affect the cumulative evidence (e.g., publication bias, selective	7

		reporting within studies).	
Additional analyses	16	Describe methods of additional analyses (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression), if done, indicating which were pre-specified.	7,8
RESULTS			
Study selection	17	Give numbers of studies screened, assessed for eligibility, and included in the review, with reasons for exclusions at each stage, ideally with a flow diagram.	8
Study characteristics	18	For each study, present characteristics for which data were extracted (e.g., study size, PICOS, follow-up period) and provide the citations.	8 - 10
Risk of bias within studies	19	Present data on risk of bias of each study and, if available, any outcome level assessment (see item 12).	-
Results of individual studies	20	For all outcomes considered (benefits or harms), present, for each study: (a) simple summary data for each intervention group (b) effect estimates and confidence intervals, ideally with a forest plot.	9, 10
Synthesis of results	21	Present results of each meta-analysis done, including confidence intervals and measures of consistency.	10
Risk of bias across studies	22	Present results of any assessment of risk of bias across studies (see Item 15).	11, 12
Additional analysis	23	Give results of additional analyses, if done (e.g., sensitivity or subgroup analyses, meta-regression [see Item 16]).	-
DISCUSSION			
Summary of evidence	24	Summarize the main findings including the strength of evidence for each main outcome; consider their relevance to key groups (e.g., healthcare providers, users, and policy makers)	12
Limitations	25	Discuss limitations at study and outcome level (e.g., risk of bias), and at review-level (e.g., incomplete retrieval of identified research, reporting bias).	12
Conclusions	26	Provide a general interpretation of the results in the context of other evidence, and implications for future research.	12
FUNDING			
Funding	27	Describe sources of funding for the systematic review and other support (e.g., supply of data); role of funders for the systematic review.	13